



# Transition Area Section

## *Survey Activities*

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### Introduction

Within the Transition Area, it is critically important to detect infestations as early as possible. Early detection of infestations will prevent the movement of infested articles from the Transition Area.

To detect infestations in the Transition Area, several survey types are useful:

- ◆ Trap Surveys
- ◆ Egg-mass Surveys
- ◆ Larval Trapping

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### Trap Surveys

#### Initiating Factors

Trap surveys will be done to locate established populations in the Transition Area. If resources permit, the trap surveys will be done throughout the Transition Area; if resources are limited, trap surveys will be done in areas near the generally infested regulated area.

In addition to locating infestations, the trap survey will help determine when a county in the Transition Area should be shifted to the regulated area.

#### Recommended Trapping Density

The recommended trapping density is either of the following:

- ◆ 3-mile grid—equal to 1 trap per 9 square miles
- ◆ 5-km grid (3.1-mile)—equal to 1 trap per 9.6 square miles

### Trapping Period

A trapping period from June 1st to October 1st is generally recommended. However, local climatic conditions will affect the starting and ending dates for trapping.

### Trap Type

In a trap survey, use either delta traps or milk-carton traps. For consistency and comparability of trapping results, use only one type of trap within a State.

### Trap Servicing Frequency

As a minimum, service delta traps once a month. Servicing more frequently, once every two weeks, is recommended. If traps are likely to be vandalized, trap servicing once every two weeks is recommended.

### Moth Identification

If the suspect moths were trapped where Asian gypsy moths are not likely to be introduced, send the suspect moths to a designated trained identifier.

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## Egg Mass Surveys

### Initiating Factors

Egg-mass surveys are desirable when (1) egg masses are the only life stage present and (2) populations are high enough to make the effort worthwhile.

A basic problem with egg-mass surveys is that egg-mass surveys usually will not detect low-level populations.

### Egg-mass Survey Methods

The two egg-mass survey methods used are (1) the targeted visual survey method and (2) the small-plot method. Both these methods were described in the subsection on survey methods other than trapping (Survey Section-Other Survey Methods).